



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB55 – State Finance – Prohibited Appropriations – Magnetic Levitation Transportation System**

**SB 55** aims to prohibit appropriation for a magnetic levitation transportation system in the State; providing that the prohibition does not apply to certain expenditures for salaries; and generally relating to State appropriations for magnetic levitation transportation systems.

Despite decades of study and billions in proposed funding, the maglev project remains fraught with insurmountable challenges that demand a re-evaluation of its place in Maryland's future. Senate Bill 55 seeks to address these concerns by prohibiting state appropriations for maglev projects, with an exception for expenditures related to salaries and oversight.

The harmful impact of the maglev project that are weighing Maryland communities include though are not limited to:

- The considerate devastation to nearby communities, due to disruption and potential destruction of resident properties.
- Damages that fundamentally alter Maryland's ecosystem. Federal environmental reviews have detailed the devastating effects of the clearing of 450 acres of trees, disruption of 22 acres of wetlands, and the degradation of nearly 13,000 linear feet of streams.
- Significant alterations to public lands managed by agencies such as the National Park Service and NASA, undermining decades of conservation efforts.
- With projected costs ranging from \$13.8 billion to \$16.8 billion, the project represents an enormous financial burden.
- The expected average fare of \$60 per trip creates accessibility concerns, making the system a luxury for the few rather than a solution for the many.
- While proponents argue it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by removing millions of car trips annually, the infrastructure required for maglev would rely heavily on electricity sourced from fossil fuels, thereby diminishing its environmental benefits.

Public opposition to the maglev project has been significant and sustained. Civic associations, environmental groups, and elected officials have voiced concerns about the disruption to communities, businesses, and green spaces.

SB 55 represents a prudent and necessary measure to protect Maryland's resources and communities from the adverse impacts of the maglev project. By prohibiting state appropriations, this bill ensures that taxpayer dollars are directed toward initiatives that align with Maryland's values of environmental stewardship, financial sustainability, and protection of our community.

By passing SB 55, we can safeguard our resources, protect our environment, and prioritize projects that truly benefit all Marylanders.

Therefore, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 55.